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(C O P Y)

Etheldreda House,

ELY.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To: The Chairman and Members,
Ely Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen - I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1962:-

1. STATISTICS: During 1962, the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my Report.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

(a) Ambulances: Two Ambulances are stationed at Ely, both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council.

The Littleport St. John Ambulance continues to work under the agency agreement with the County Council. This vehicle, which serves the local area, and those areas adjoining when necessary, continues to be of the greatest value.

The members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade have continued their good work to the public, by manning and running the Ambulance at Littleport.

The Ely St. John members give what services they are able, but complete coverage is impossible owing to the demands of their work for some members, and increasing age for others.

The indifference of so many younger members of the Community, to public service, is a great tragedy and one can only deplore it.

(b) Nursing and Clinic Arrangements:

Arrangements continue as in previous years. Once again, I place on record our thanks to the Nurses in the District, who unobtrusively carried on with their magnificent work.

(c) Hospitals:

(i) Tower Hospital for Chronic Sick.

(ii) St. John's Hospital for Infectious Diseases and long-stay cases.

(iii) The Grange Maternity Home.
These three Hospitals are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

3. WATER:

(a) (i) Although the new Water Board took over the responsibility for the water supply in the District as from 1st April 1962, the Council acted as agent for the Board up to the 1st October 1962, when the Board took over the detailed running of the water supply.

(ii) There have been no major breakdowns.

(iii) The Chloramine Plant continued to act satisfactorily.

(iv) The periodic chemical and bacteriological samples were taken to ensure the maintenance of the quality and purity of the water supplied to the District.

(b) During the past nine months the Board has been considering the problems of water supply from an area rather than a parochial point of view.

Over the past few years I have drawn attention to some of the more important problems which have required attention. Although these problems are no longer the Council's problems, they still require attention, some of them urgently.

Particularly do I hope that among items of first priority, the Board will keep that of the provision of low-level reservoirs, high on the list.

4. SEWAGE:

(a) Extensions:

The only extensions during the year were to new housing estates.

(b) Sewage Disposal Works:

Tests taken during the year showed a generally satisfactory result, although there was a tendency for the suspended solids to be on the high side. A careful watch is being maintained on this.

(c) Sewerage Scheme:

Negotiations with the Ministry of Housing & Local Government are proceeding. It is hoped that tenders will be received during the course of 1963, and that work will be commenced early in 1964.

(d) Prickwillow Disposal Works:

This small works just manages to keep going. I hesitate to guess how long it will continue to function. However, the question of the provision of main drainage for the whole of Prickwillow will need consideration in the very near future, and the rebuilding of the present small works can well be included in the plans for the main scheme.

5. HOUSING:

During the year work was started on the first seventy houses in Priors Court. I am pleased to note work was also started on Fairfax Court.

5. HOUSING: (cont.)

In the District there are still sub-standard houses past improvement. It is difficult to deal with these until the new houses are completed, which will allow of more re-housing of persons from the sub-standard properties. I hope in the near future it will be possible to implement the Council's wishes to clear the worst type of "slum" property at a quicker rate. If a specific number of new houses could be allocated by the Council for re-housing, it certainly would assist us in clearing the worst of these properties at a quicker rate.

(a) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation or in a condition prejudicial to health 140

(b) Number of preliminary notices served 7

(c) Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to:-

(i) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works ..... NIL

(ii) The making of demolition orders ..... NIL

(iii) The making of closing orders ..... NIL

(d) Number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works ..... NIL

(e) Number of houses demolished 9

Number of houses closed 1

(f) Number of houses made fit ..... NIL

(g) Number of formal notices served under the Public Health Act 1936 ..... NIL

(h) Inspection referring to Certificate of Disrepair 4

Improvement Grants made during the period 1st April 1962 - 31st March 1963 = 18.

(Discretionary = 7)
(Standard = 11) Total = £4,905.

6. SCHOOLS:

I have no comments to make.

7. MILK:

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, operating since April 1959, is still in force. This Order prohibits the retail sale of raw milk unless it carries the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

(a) 31 notifications of Infectious Diseases were received. The total is made up as follows:-

Measles	26
Pneumonia	5
Total	31

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES: (cont.)

This year has seen the lowest incidence of infectious disease in the District for some years, which is very satisfactory.

(b) Once again, I have to report the very happy fact that no case of diphtheria occurred during the year. This grand state of affairs can only be maintained in the future if every child is properly immunized in early years.

Immunization against polio-myelitis is still carried out regularly by general practitioners and at County Council Clinics.

During the year small outbreaks of Small Pox occurred in three areas in the Country, none of which were in East Anglia.

Owing to excessive publicity, a state of near panic was shown among some of the general population. This I feel was to be regretted as much unjustified and needless worry and anxiety was apparent for a time.

(c) Tuberculosis.

3 New cases were notified during the year. After making necessary adjustment, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
Males	23	-
Females	17	3

Compared with 1961, the total figure shows an increase of 1 case.

9. FOOD.

(a) Premises:

(i) 11 Premises are registered for the preparation of Sausages and Preserved Food.

(ii) 42 Premises are registered for storage and sale of Ice Cream. There is no ice cream manufactured for sale in the area.

(iii) The one Slaughterhouse in the District was re-licensed, following the satisfactory completion of the outstanding necessary improvements.

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected:-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1,323	34	767	3,466

Meat found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Tuberculosis	Bruising	Other Causes	Total
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

9. FOOD. (cont.)

Offal found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Tuberculosis	Fluke	Other Causes	Total
Nil	145 lbs.	400 lbs.	545 lbs.

(iv) The following are food handling premises in the area:-

Butchers	11
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	8
Bakers and Confectioners	4
Grocers	12
Greengrocers	11
Licensed Premises	41
Sweets and Tobacco	10
Wet and Fried Fish	5
Wholesale Warehouse	1
School Kitchens	4
General Stores	17
Ice Cream	2
Brewery	1
Vegetable Wholesalers	1

(b) Food Hygiene:

The question of food hygiene continues to worry me. It is practically impossible to do much more work in this direction with the present Staff in the Public Health Department.

Repeated visits to food-handling premises is absolutely essential if standards of hygiene are to be improved and maintained.

Grubby hands and nails, moistening fingers when giving bills, and even the removal of stickiness from the fingers by insertion in the mouth during the serving of pastries, buns and cakes etc., etc., along with other disgusting habits can only be prevented by the greatest vigilance on the part of employers, assistants, members of the public and Council Officers. Much of it could be stamped out, if the public was to voice loudly its disapproval when instances of such practices occurred.

The thanks of the whole community are due to those employers and assistants who do take this subject seriously and make the greatest efforts to give a first-class service.

(e) Unsound Food:

Article	Quantity	Weight Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Ham	10 tins.		1	12	15
Shoulder	2 tins.			3	-
Jellied Veal	6 tins.		1	6	-
Tongue	7 tins.			22	8
Corned Beef	50 tins.	2	-	4	4
Corned Mutton	2 tins.			2	12
Luncheon Meat	12 tins.			23	11
Other Meats	45 tins.		1	16	9

9. FOOD.

(e) Unsound Food: (cont.)

Article	Quantity	Weight Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Sausages.	2 tins.			1	8
Chickens.	35 tins.		3	10	13
Bacon.	-			5	-
Steak & Kidney Pie.	1 tin.				15
Tinned Fruit.	204 tins.	2	2	11	13
Tinned Vegetables.	28 tins.		1	2	15
Tinned Soup.	17 tins.			15	1
Tinned Fish.	19 tins.			14	4
Tinned Tomatoes.	31 tins.		1	4	1
Tinned Jam.	7 tins.			12	-
Tinned Milk.	28 tins.	(48½ Pints.)			
Tinned Cream.	2 tins.	(12 fluid ozs.)			
Tinned Rice.	12 tins.			11	-
Baby Foods.	4 tins.			1	2
Chocolate Pudding.	1 tin.				10
Fruit Juice.	3 tins.			3	7
Peanuts.	1 tin.				4
NesCafe.	1 tin.				2
Coffee.	1 jar.				6
Coffee.	1 tin.				4
Peanut Butter.	1 jar.				4
Horseradish.	2 jars.				10
Chicken Spread.	1 jar.				1¾
Cereals.	3 packets.			2	1
Cake Mixture.	2 packets.			1	6
Honey	2 jars.			2	-
Fruit Squash.	3 bottles.	-	-	-	-
Cheese.	-		2	16	-
Dog Food.	3 large tins.)				
Dog Food.	1 small tin.)-		-	-	-
Dog Food.	1 packet.)				
Spanish Lemons.	91 boxes.	1	12	2	-(approx.)
Melons.	455 cases (6 per case).	-	-	-	-

10. MISCELLANEOUS:

(i) Insect Pest Control:

There have been no outstanding problems during the year and I have no comments to make.

(ii) Shops:

Some of my remarks under "Food Hygiene" refer here. Although inspections have been maintained, I wish many more could have been done, but under present conditions this has not been possible.

(iii) Rodent Control:

During the year 1,592 inspections and re-inspections, with 147 agricultural premises in addition, have been carried out. 257 Properties were found to be infested, and 340 treatments and re-treatments were carried out.

Treatments are not carried out at Farms except in default. 1 Informal Notice was served in this respect with which, the occupier complied.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

(iii) Rodent Control: (cont.)

In February the Council decided to call a Meeting of Farmers and Small Holders in the two Districts for the purpose of disseminating information on rat destruction. With the co-operation of Pests Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Ely Branch of the National Farmers' Union, the Public Health Department of Newmarket Rural District Council and the Ely Rural District Council, such a meeting was organized by the Public Health Inspector - Mr. Bryan, on the evening of Monday, 5th March. 70 Farmers, etc., from the Ely Urban and Rural Districts and the Soham locality attended. The system of control provided by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and the enforcement powers of local authorities thereunder, were outlined by the speaker and advice given on practical measures which can be undertaken by owners and occupiers to eradicate rat infestation of agricultural land.

This meeting was very successful and has been followed-up with Farm Inspections to ensure that owners and occupiers treat infestations.

(iv) Smoke Abatement:

2 Prior approvals for installation of furnaces were given during the year.

There was 1 notification of installation in addition to the above.

(v) Moveable Dwellings:

The general position has improved during the year, and the municipal caravan site is now in existence. This has been of great assistance.

(vi) Factories:

There are 13 non-mechanical and 59 mechanical factories on the Register.

Here again, it has not been possible to inspect these in a way I would wish, as time and man-power are not available.

(vii) Common Lodging Houses:

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the City.

(viii) Swimming Pool:

The new Chlorinating Plant was installed during the year, and has been operating satisfactorily.

(ix) Refuse Tip:

Increasing improvement has taken place during the year. Constant attention at all times is very necessary.

10. MISCELLANEOUS: (cont.)

(x) Markets:

Apart from the need for more constant supervision by the Public Health Department, I have no comments to make this year.

11. PERSONAL:

This year has been a very happy year so far as all my colleagues and I are concerned. Constant contact has ensured increasing co-operation and an understanding of the problems of other Departments.

To Mr. Billington, Mr. Stroud and Mr. S. B. Clark, I want to express my sincerest thanks for their advice and assistance.

To my only Public Health Department colleague, the Public Health Inspector - Mr. John Bryan, I also express my thanks for his help.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) K. S. MAURICE-SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health,
Ely Urban District Council.

1st October, 1963.